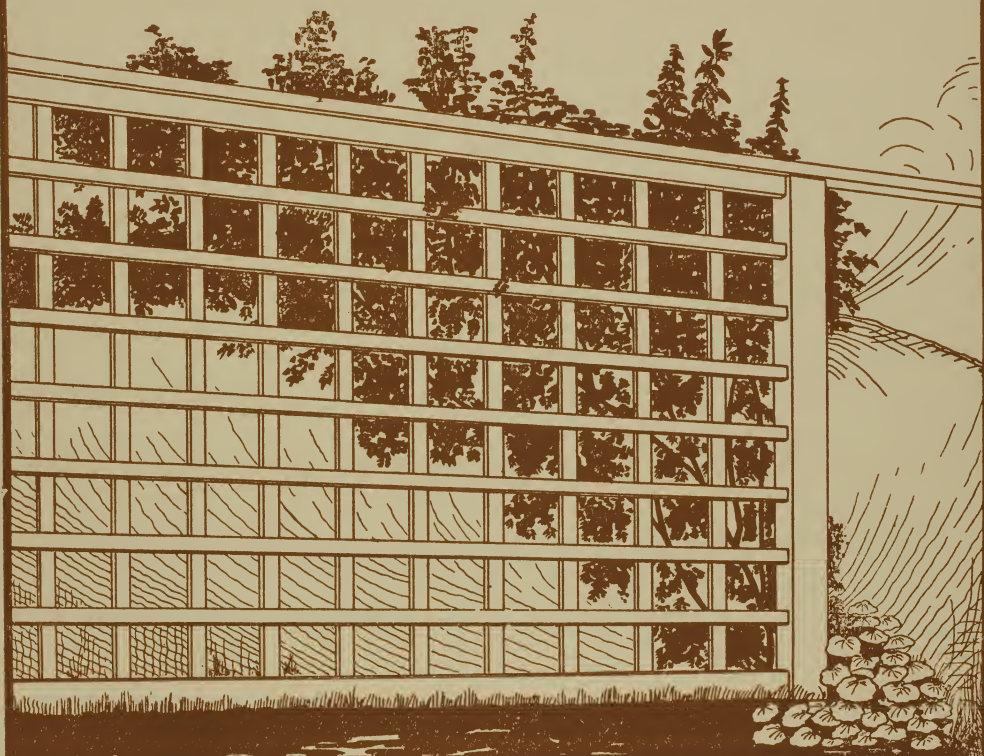


California Garden



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AUG. 1922

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The California Garden

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Vol. 13

POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA, AUG., 1922

No. 14

NATIVE SHRUBS FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE PLANTING

Our Native shrubs are not appreciated at their true worth in the planting of either large or small places. In this article I shall try at least, to show their value for beautifying the yards and the gardens of this Southland. As I said before, in my piece about Herbaceous plants, so I repeat; natives require only about the tithe of the water and the attention one must bestow on Exotics to make them thrive; to have them luxuriant in foliage and flower. Moreover there are some of our natives which are so impatient with the watering methods of the average gardener, that they seem to say: "Well, it's no use trying to look good, because my keeper don't have sense enough to understand that I am a dry subject, was so before the Volstead act became law, yet he keeps pouring water on me continually, and I guess I shall quit the job and let him try some of my fellows who know no better than to be continually deluged." And they die. Sure as fate most of our natives will die if treated like plants are treated on the Atlantic Coast. I have now been in this state going on twenty-six years and up to this time have not met a half dozen professional gardeners who have grasped the idea that this is a desert country. Even a blue grass lawn is an exotic, which never was intended for climatic conditions such as prevail in Southern California, yet there are men and women who must have just that sort of thing, or be very uncomfortable in mind. Heavens, will we never learn any sense. Water, water, water, everlastingly pouring on water. More cultivation, and more fertilizer, and less water would produce more flowers than we get by our present methods. But to get back to the subject; Native shrubs for our gardens and our more extensive landscape planting. *Dendromicon rigidum*; our shrubby Poppy will show its golden colors for seven months of the year if mulched with coarse manure and watered once each month during July, August and September, and be clothed with luxuriant foliage the whole year. Watered frequently during the dry summer days, death is sure to be the result. The same is true of *Matilija* poppy; *Romneya coulteri*. The Fu-

chsia flowered goosberry; *Ribes speciosum* will go dormant during the summer no matter how much water is applied to it, hence it is a waste of both time and water to try to keep it green, but when the Autumn days dawn, and nights become cool and, may be damp, it will awake from its siesta, and if given a little attention in the shape of stable manure and a little water, it puts on a mantle of glossy green leaves, and along about the first of the year covers itself with glory in the form of scarlet flowers like unto some species of *Fuchsia* hence the common name. Then there is the *Mimulus* tribe of shrubs; *Diplacus* is the Generic name applied to them by scholastics. This is one family of plants which is an exception to the rule of dry culture which I have been advocating. It will stand a lot of water, thrive and bloom ten months of the year. It is not necessary for me to say that there are several colors, dark red to white, and the hills of San Diego are aflame with the red species. For a berried plant, *Rhamnus crocea* is not excelled in beauty by any other berried plant. Its bright red fruits ripen during the summer months. Then for winter—spring is a more appropriate name for our rainy season—Christmas berry is equal to any Exotic. *Heteromeles arbutifolia* is the name that has been applied to it. I have tried it in mixed shrubberies where water had to be applied to keep the foreigners going, and those plants were not a whit better than those growing in the wild. For a low growing tree it is fine for avenue planting. Then, too, it makes a fine stock for working pear and quince on, and I shall try it for the tree roses as an experiment. It belongs to the Rose Tribe. Shrubby *Pentstemon*s are a gorgeous sight if given a half chance. California Slippery Elm: *Fremontia Californica*, is another beautiful subject, which, if watered freely, will give up the ghost, and the gardener wonders what is the matter. The same is true of Woolly Blue Curls, *Trichostema lanatum*. And what a gem it is, whether in bud or in bloom. Of Lupins there are a number worthy a place in every collection. The yellow flowered species appeal to me most, although there are a num-

ber of good blues. *Lathyrus splendens*, a native of San Diego is not surpassed for beauty when in bloom, by any other vine in cultivation, and if you want to kill it, water it freely. This article is intended for gardeners of the south half of the state. No attempt is made to cover all subjects for decorative purposes, rather to direct the thoughts of men and women who garden, in to the channel of thought that this is a **Peculiar Country**, and we should be a peculiar people, with a method of gardening peculiar to this climate and country.

There has been entirely too much copying after English, Scotch, French, and Atlantic coast methods. We must have an individuality all our own. Let us be known the world over as a **Peculiar People**, with a style of gardening **distinctively** of our own creation, and when gardeners who really know the game, come this way, from far off lands, they will have something different to see and to think about, which is the essence of a recreation, when one goes on a **vacation**.

PETER D. BARNHART.

NAMING A NEW ROSE

The Portland Rose Society and the Royal Rosarians of Portland are arranging details for an impressive ceremony to take place at the time of the meeting of the General Convention of the Episcopal church in September. The new climbing rose, then will formally receive its name "Mrs. George C. Thomas."

This new rose, which was shown in the 1920 rose annual, is the result of ten years of effort by Captain George Thomas of Philadelphia, to produce an ever-blooming climbing rose, and its record under the Portland test evidences his success. The new rose planted in the International Rose Test Gardens in Portland blossomed from May until October, produced during that period over 400 blooms and scored the highest of all roses tested in 1921.

The time of the naming of the new rose was set for this date instead of during Portland's Rose Festival, as has been customary in like cases, because of the fact that Captain Thomas' father was for many years the Treasurer of the National Episcopal church organization, and his mother, for whom the rose is named, has been one of the country's largest contributors to the work of the Episcopal church.

At the time of the ceremony which is scheduled to take place in the Auditorium at Portland on Saturday evening, September 16, Captain Thomas will be presented with the gold medal of the City of Portland for the best new climbing rose and the silver trophy of the Portland Rose Society for the best new rose produced by an amateur.

As a special feature attending this ceremony the Royal Rosarians will knight several prominent rose growers who will be in the city at that time as delegates to the General Convention of the Episcopal church.

SEEDS TO SOW FOR WINTER, SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER FLOWERS

J. G. Morley.

Alyssum. May be sown in place where it is to flower. White Fleece and Little Gem are the best. Fine for borders, especially the dwarf variety,—Little Gem.

Antirrhinums, or Snap Dragons. May be sown at once for winter blooming. It is advisable to sow seed at intervals of 30 days for a succession of bloom,—the tall, medium and dwarf varieties are all worth a trial in the garden. There are many named varieties of fine quality, and seed in separate colors can be obtained.

Calendulas. For flowers throughout the winter and early spring flowers,—fine for cutting. May be had in several colors, white, pink, violet and rose pink. The perennial candytuft is also fine for the garden, and may be sown from now until October for flowers in the spring.

Centaureas Imperialis and Centaureas Cyanus. (Batchelor's Button)—Both double and single.

Cinerarias. One of the most satisfactory flowers for the garden if planted with a north or east exposure. Seed may be sown at once and a succession every 30 days until November. Sow at once for early flowers. The best types of *Cineraria hybrida grandiflora*,—tall flowering; *Cineraria Stellata* and the Cactus flowered seed may be purchased in separate colors, if so desired.

Clarkias. Sow from now until November. **Cosmos.** May be sown now for late fall blooming and are very satisfactory.

Eschscholtzia (California Poppy). Sow from now until November. Sow where they are to bloom and protect the young seedlings from the birds. Seed may be had in several different colors and also in named varieties, but I like the old fashioned yellow the best, although it is pleasing to note the fine range of colors developed in recent years.

Gypsophila Paniculata. A perennial variety may be sown now and produce an abundance of flowers next summer. The annual variety if seeded at once will produce a profusion of flowers during the winter and early spring.

Hollyhocks. Biennial varieties, sow the seed at once for next season's flowers. Seed may be procured in separate colors in both double and single varieties. There is the Allegheny strain, a single variety with fringed edges that is very pretty. Hollyhocks suffer from rust and mildew and when either disease appears, they should be treated at once with a liberal application of Bordeaux Mixture.

Lupins. Are very fine for winter and early spring flowers. Seed may be sown at once and a succession every 30 days until December. The seedlings transplant easily.

Larkspur. Sow at once and continue every 30 days until January to produce a succession of flowers until early summer. Larkspurs are one of the finest flowers for

cutting and seed may be had in separate colors,—both double and single. Be sure to protect the young seedlings from the birds as they will surely destroy them if they have an opportunity.

Leptosyne Maritana (The Sea Dahlia). This flower is a native of San Diego County, and when cultivated in the garden is very fine for cutting, and blooms continuously for several months. Seed sown now will produce and abundance of flowers throughout the winter and spring.

Leptosyne Stillmani. Has larger flowers and is also fine for the garden.

Mignonette. Sow at once in place where it is to bloom. For a succession sow every 30 days. The best varieties are Machet, Allen's Defiance, Giant Pyramidal and Golden Queen.

Nasturtiums. All varieties may be sown now.

Nemesia. One of the finest garden annuals,—may be procured in white, scarlet, crimson and orange. Seed may be sown where plants are to bloom, or seeded in flats and transplanted.

Pansies. For early flowering, seed should be sown at once,—for succession, every 30 days until December. Pansies thrive in a very rich soil and to bring out the colors, a liberal application of powdered charcoal raked into the ground decidedly improves the color and texture of the flowers. Seed should be sown in flats or a carefully prepared bed. Press the seed into the ground and cover very lightly, and be sure to keep the ground moist for the successful germination of the seed. The seed bed should be shaded in this vicinity by frames made of lath or burlap until the seedlings have from three to four leaves, when they may be transplanted into other flats or a prepared bed. Put plants about two inches apart each way, and when large enough transplant to the area where they are to bloom. Fine pansy seed is very expensive and the finer strains are hard to raise,—the common ones are easy and are best to experiment with until you know the best system to use. Seed may be purchased in separate colors, named varieties or mixed.

Schizanthus (Butterfly Flower). One of the best garden annuals. Fine for cutting and also for pot culture. Seed may be sown at once and continuous sowings may be made every 30 days for a succession of flowers. They may be seeded in flats or seed beds and transplanted, or sown where they are to bloom. The mixed hybrid types and the variety *Wisetoniensis* are the best.

Stocks. The charming colors, delightful fragrance and free blooming character of stocks have made them a favorite flower the world over, for both summer and winter cultivation. For winter flowers, the seed should be sown at once and the young plants transplanted to where they are to bloom to have them established before the rainy season. Be sure to plant them on well-drained soil, as

they will get stem rot and damp off if the ground stays too wet and soggy. The best varieties to sow for winter flowering are the Giant Perfection Ten-Week, and the Giant Flowering Beauty. Seed may be procured in separate colors,—white, canary yellow, salmon rose, light pink, blood red, lavender, rose pink, crimson, light blue and dark blue in the Giant Perfection Ten-Week, and about the same range of color in the Giant Flowering Beauty.

Stocks perpetual flowering are well worthy of growing as they produce enormous crops of flowers and will last several years in the garden if so desired. The improved perpetual cut and come again is the best variety to plant. Seed may be procured in the same colors as the ten-week varieties.

Sweet William. One of the old fashioned flowers that deserves a place in every garden. Seed of both annual and perennial varieties should be sown at once. Flowers of the perennial variety will follow those of the annual, thereby greatly extending the flowering season.

Virginian Stock. A very pretty dwarf flower, very pretty for edging other flower beds. Sow now for winter flowers.

Mysotis Forget-Me-Not. Seed should be sown at once for spring flowers. Seed may be procured in blue, white and pink. Best to sow the seed where they are to bloom.

Digitalis (Foxglove). Sow seed at once to produce flowers for next spring and early summer. The *Gloxinia* flowered varieties are the best. Seedlings may be transplanted to permanent location for flowering, however, it is preferable to sow seed every year for the best results.

Gaillardia Grandiflora. Perennial variety, sow seeds at once for blooming in spring; the annual varieties may be sown in succession until March.

Geum, Atroranguineum. Sow seed from now until end of September for flowers next summer. They have beautiful red flowers and are fine for cutting. The variety, Mrs. J. Bradshaw, is the best.

Coreopsis. One of the best flowers for the garden. Seed may be sown at once and until October for flowers the following spring. The varieties *Lanceolata* and *Eldorado* are the best.

Canterbury Bells (*Campanulas*). Sow seed at once for flowers next June. They are one of the most beautiful of all the biennials. Try the single and double varieties, also the cup and saucer, after the seedlings are large enough, transplant to permanent location. It pays to sow fresh seed every year.

Delphiniums (Perennial). Sow seed at once for flowers next spring and early summer. Transplant the seedlings when large enough to permanent location. Seed may be procured in light and dark shades of the blue. The varieties *Belladonna* and *Formosum* are

the ones generally planted. There are other fine hybrid varieties that may be purchased from the best seedsman.

Aquilegia (Columbine). Sow seed at once for next spring and summer flowers. These are one of the most beautiful of all the perennials and may be had in a wide range of colors and varieties.

Oriental Poppy (*Papaver Orientale*). Sow seed during the next 60 days to flower next spring and summer. Sow them where they are to bloom, and thin out to eighteen inches apart.

Primulas—Chinese Primrose. Sow seed at once. These are very fine for pot culture and also for growing in shady places and in the lath house. The seeds are very hard to germinate and care must be taken in preparing the soil for the seed. Sow them in seed flats or pans in a compost of one-third each of leaf mould, sand and loam. Be careful as to water,—keep the soil moist but not too wet, as the seedlings easily damp off. Seed sown now will flower next April to June. Besides the Chinese Primrose, the varieties *Coconica* and *Malacoides* are very fine and are much easier to grow.

Polyanthus. Sow seed at once. Treatment similar to Chinese Primrosees. After seedlings are large enough, transplant into flats, and when thoroughly established, transplant to the open ground with a north or east exposure. The plants are dwarf and are fine for borders and rockeries, and may also be successfully grown in pots.

Sweet Peas. Winter flowering, sow at once, and in succession every 30 days until November 1st. Sweet Peas thrive in a rich, well-drained soil. Spade the ground deep, and fertilize with plenty of well rotted manure. After the peas are up, thin out to one foot apart in the row. Apply commercial fertilizer at intervals during the flowering season, and be sure to keep the ground moist. Pick the flowers as they mature, as it will prolong the blooming period. There are so many new varieties of winter flowering type, you cannot go far wrong in your selections of colors. The Spencer types, I believe, are the best for general cultivation.

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The August & Sept. Gardens

BALBOA PARK NOTES

J. G. Morley.

One of the most interesting features in Balboa Park at present is the water lilies and display of lotus in the pond beneath the Cabrillo bridge, and in the lagoon in the exposition grounds.

The display of flowers at this time is very beautiful, and they are admired by the many visitors to the park. The display may be seen from the parapet of the bridge, and is a source of admiration by pedestrians crossing over, as well as extended views of the park in all directions. Many people in autos are unaware that such an unusual display of flowers is close at hand. However, by driving through Cabrillo canyon by the pond beneath the bridge, a close view of the flowers may be enjoyed.

The area of bloom is not so large as in former years, owing to the heavy rains last winter. The pond was nearly half filled to a depth of three to four feet with soil and debris washed into it by the storm waters from the streets and surrounding areas. It is planned to build a by-pass storm drain, when funds are available, to protect the lotus from further damage by winter storms.

The water lilies in the lagoon adjacent to the Botanical Building in the Exposition Grounds are now at their best, and are well worthy of a visit by our citizens, to enjoy their beauty. I believe that this season they seem to be better than preceding seasons, owing to the warm nights and the increased humidity of the present summer. Included with the water lilies are several groups of lotus, which grow higher out of the water, providing a contrast and also adding to the enhancement of the lily display. The range of color of the lilies also adds to the charming effect of the lagoon, and the following list of varieties and their colors will furnish information for our readers to plan a lily pond intelligently, should any desire to grow them.

Nelumbium (Egyptian Lotus)

Nelumbium Speciosum—Pink.

Nelumbium Album Striatum—White with pink edge.

Nelumbium Perkinensis Rubrum—Deep pink.

Nymphaea (Water Lily)

Nymphaea Rosea Perfecta—Pink.

Nymphaea Mrs. Richmond—Pink.

Nymphaea Rosea—Pink.

Nymphaea Carneae—Flesh pink.

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THE AUGUST VEGETABLE GARDEN

By Walter Birch.

Driving in the El Cajon valley yesterday, in the neighborhood of Bostonia, I could not help being struck by the appearance of a 10 or 20 acre tract of land belonging to one of the best market gardeners in this part of the county. It is growing mostly sweet potatoes, cabbage and cauliflower and everything looked in the pink of condition. Land perfectly irrigated, cultivated and manured, and you could almost see the plants growing as you passed. A few years ago the same piece of land was owned by another man and did not produce anything in particular to attract the eye of the passerby. Of course the present owner "knows how" and applies his knowledge, but he has acquired that knowledge during the last few years, and we can all have gardens like that (on a smaller scale of course) if we make the same effort in proportion as he has done. I had just written "take the same trouble" instead of "effort" in the last sentence, and changed it to effort, as the word trouble is too suggestive and makes one think of those beautiful plants, either flower or vegetable, that were doing so well when the snails came along or the blight got busy. But after all, if one has the necessary time to combat them, these little troubles add zest to the game and make success all the sweeter, to say nothing of the more intimate knowledge we have acquired of plant life and all that goes with it.

Owing to the unusual humidity in the air in combination with other climatic conditions during the last week or ten days, there have been very heavy losses to the growers of melons and in some cases cucumbers, on account of a sort of blight attacking the vine. If you have this in your garden and it has not gone too far, spray with Bordeaux Mixture after first cutting off the badly affected leaves on the plants, and if there is any leaf eating insects at work add a little Arsenate of Lead.

If you want some early peas it is about time to plant now; for quickest results try Blue Bantam, but for large crop and length of bearing period you will find Senator the best. It is also almost time to get in your Winter Blooming Spencer Sweet Peas, too, by planting last week of August or first week in September you will have blooms in December. It is worth while making good preparation for these, manure heavily and spade thoroughly, having first soaked land

Continued on page 10

The California Garden

A. D. Robinson, Editor
Office, Roscroft, Point Loma, Cal.

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EDITORIALLY

The Fall Flower Show dates have been set for September 30th and October 1st, after the Directors of The Floral Association had thoroughly canvassed the various factors that go to help to form a good guess as to when will be the most auspicious time. All peoples, nations and languages are asked to accept this statement for its face value, whatever the future may produce. It is a uncomfortable fact that it is absolutely necessary to fix the date for such a thing as a flower show so far ahead even in the stable climate of San Diego, but it has to be done. The bold seven who direct the affairs of the Floral Association always hate this job, knowing that they are but seven and seven hundred will be sure they could have done better should the Fates prove unkind.

Steadily through the years the number of exhibitors and exhibits have increased, but there are still hundreds who should be represented who are not. There is some excuse for those outside the Association, ranks for not being entrants, that is from their point of view not from ours, but members actually renege when they don't bring something. Not having good enough quality to win a prize is no excuse at all, rather a confession of an absolute lack of comprehension of what the association is trying to do, it does not expect you to exhibit to win prizes but to prove that the Show is yours as the Association is yours and you know it. You have no garden to grow flowers, well steal some from your friend's plot, any way get into the show.

Why waste the limited space in this magazine with these obvious remarks? Because this year certain exhibitors say their exhibits will be smaller and its stirs us up to stir you

up to make the show larger than ever.

Supposing we fail to make you see your exhibiting as a duty which a modern author says in its performance leaves no time for anything else, cannot we stir your pride. Think back over the unbroken record of shows for sixteen years held by your Association in all kinds of times, a record so long that the city now believes it always had and always will have two Flower Shows a year—but there why say more you are going to bring in your blade of grass.

Elsewhere, no doubt, instructions appear as to how to get ready for the show be your hobby Dahlias, Zinnias, Mums or whatnot, but we would like to be "obvious" again here. Flowers out now won't be at the Show, in fact blooms of today hurt show prospects. Can you wait for a few weeks? Can you keep blooms off your plants even cut them back so that they will come along later. There is hardly a flower whose blooming cannot be postponed the duration of the period between now and the show.

We feel a heap better now, we see you all trooping in the morning of September 30th with your contributions, most of you will say, "It is nothing," but that is your privilege, as it is that of every mother who loves to pose as thinking her children quite ordinary that she may be contradicted. The Show management will provide an official contradictor.

The California Garden is getting mighty popular, it is being discovered by all kinds of advertisers, seedsmen, nurserymen and the like and a religious association is the latest applicant for rates which it wants discounted fifty per cent because of its occupation or calling. It says this reduction is customary, we are uninformed, but we fear this shows that even advertising loses its power with the unregenerated, but we don't believe that even at half price it would be a good bet to advertise religiously to garden people and cannot better express our reason than by quoting these lines of Thomas Edward Brown:

A garden is a lovesome thing, God wot!

Rose plot,

Fringed pool,

Fern'd grot—

The veriest school

Of Peace; and yet the fool

Contents that God is not—

Not God! in gardens! when the eve is cool?

Nay, but I have a sign:

'Tis very sure God walks in mine.

We had hoped this month to publish a sketch of our worthy Superintendent of Parks as we understand he has history antedating his San Diego record, but so far all the information we have been able to extract is a rather aggravating grin. This is to notify him that we are sufficient of a news gatherer to know that where information cannot be

otherwise obtained it must be manufactured and we have copies of both Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer, to say nothing of Penrod and Robinson Crusoe and our imagination is still in good working order.

Groom your Zinnias for the Fall Show, Sept. 30th.

SEPTEMBER OUT-OF-DOOR MEETING

The Floral Association will hold an out-of-door meeting September 5th at Mission Cliff Gardens, assembling at 10:30 in the morning. There will be no regular program, merely a good time enjoying the flowers, the view and one another. This is an experimental meeting to see if you like the idea of a morning meeting. You can bring a lunch if you choose, but it is not intended for a picnic.

SEPTEMBER REGULAR MEETING

The Floral Association will hold its regular evening meeting September 19th with Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis L. Doyle, 3427 Fourth street, commencing at 7:30. The subject will be "BULBS", and there will be a free distribution of bulbs, if you have any spare ones please bring them along.

Premium list for the Fall Show in next issue.

BLUE GRASS, POA PRATENSIS

A native of the cooler regions of the Northern Hemisphere. Gray says that it is indigenous to Pennsylvania. That is my native state, where this grass will soon cover the landscape when the timber and brush is removed. It is considered par-excellent for pasture by stock men, who fatten cattle for the market. The dried grass is ideal for building material for field mice, the terror of the orchardist in that part of the country. The rodents burrow beneath the frozen ground and gnaw the roots of trees for a living during the winter months. Then, when the warm days of spring come, and Bumble bees begin home making, they pre-empt abandoned mouse nests, and along about the first of August, when the colony is good and strong, it is the delight of the country boy to despoil it of the bit of honey it contains. There is an element of danger in this work, for the bees resent any intrusion on their domain with the sharp end of their anatomy. Many are the swollen faces that are endured by the lads who go on these adventures, and the fellow who has not had his eyes closed for a day, by the sting of the insects, would be considered a molly coddle in any community. But this is a digression from the story of the Blue Grass. In its native habitat the country is frozen up solid for six months of the year, and during the other six months,

Continued on page 10

JULY MEETING

The regular monthly meeting for July was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest White on Second street, July 18th. This was one of the most entertaining meetings held for a long while. There was an unusually fine attendance and every one interested in subjects of the evening, Dahlias, Chrysanthemums, and Zinnias. The beautiful specimens brought of the various kinds gave the rooms the appearance of a flower show in miniature, Miss Mould, a pupil of Mr. Sies, so to speak, brought a large basket of beautiful blooms all her own seedlings, raised by herself, that is the seeds being obtained from Mr. Sies' collection. We all know that he grew one of the finest lot of Dahlias on the coast. Miss Mould explained her method of growing such fine flowers, claiming all the while to be "just an amateur", but her flowers outclassed many grown by professionals. Since the meeting it has been my privilege to see Miss Mould's Dahlias growing in her garden. They are truly wonderful. One, a large pure yellow, last year's seedling, was especially fine.

Any one interested in Dahlias should get from the Public Library, if they have not a copy of their own, the book called *The Amateurs' Book of Dahlias*, by Mrs. Stout. This is, I believe, an accepted authority by all now, and is certainly comprehensive. Next on the program was Chrysanthemums, the talk being given by Mrs. Strahlmann. Mrs. Strahlmann said while she had been always very successful in "mums" in Pasadena, that when she came to San Diego she was told she could not grow them here as it was too foggy and damp, but she has proved otherwise as her many specimens around town last fall attested. Mrs. Strahlmann had no beautiful blooms to illustrate her talk, the season being too early, but she gave a full talk telling just how they should be grown from start to finish, also that the interest in Chrysanthemum growing was rapidly coming to the front again. Next on the list was the Zinnia and Mrs. Hinson to tell about it. Mrs. Hinson said while she had tried various devices with seeds and plants of Zinnias this season she had not been as successful as in the past, in fact they were almost a failure with her, but we will hope that when the Fall Show comes around she will have succeeded in coaxing them along. After a general talk, Mr. Robinson showed and explained the various specimens, a notable one being a magnificent stalk of *Logebia Cardinalis*, from Rosecroft, the cardinal flower once so often seen and so much loved found along streams in the middle west.

The meeting then adjourned, all feeling themselves much indebted to the host and hostess for their hospitality.

MARY A. MATTHEWS,
Secretary.

THE ANNUAL MEETING AT MR. ROBINSON'S LATHHOUSE

By Eloise Roorbach.

There is a breathless uplift of spirit about a vista of broad valleys seen from a hilltop, or a quiet dell wherein a brook wanders and flowers lift their heads above the grass, a sweet sense of wonder and feeling of immortality, that is seldom felt in gardens of man's making. Yet occasionally the same exalted atmosphere that makes one wish to quote scripture does radiate from man's efforts to create beauty—as about three hundred enthusiastic people who visited Mr. A. D. Robinson's lathhouse at Point Loma, August 1st, can testify. Beneath the latticed roof of this famous lathhouse hovered the very spirit of the woodlands, the still, cool, refreshing greenness dappled with gorgeous flower color so grateful to soul and body, so inspiring to poet or artist. The verse which sprang to my mind as I brushed against glorious tree ferns and feasted my eyes half-blinded by too intense California sunshine, upon tropical masses of gorgeous bloom, is from I Corinthians, "I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." It seemed as though the god of the Greeks who stands for Beauty and our own God who quickens the spirit, must have attended Mr. Robinson when he planted the ten thousand lovely things now growing in this celebrated lathhouse, and set them about with such taste and naturalness.

The first appeal to visitors is one of sheer beauty. Then the mind asserts itself and questions how it was all brought about. In the first place Mr. Robinson is a man of vision and in the second he is a man of science—he knows how to bring his dreams to reality. The begonias were especially fine for he has studied the habits, the likes and dislikes of these amazing plants, until he is able to give them the conditions of soil and climate which enables them to reach perfection. In this lathhouse which is approximately 80 feet square by 10 to 16 feet in height he has the finest collection of begonias in the world. He accounts for the perfection of the plants in several ways, one and the chief of which is the perfect climatic condition to be found at Point Loma. The temperature of the lathhouse seldom rises higher than 70 degrees or lowers to 60 and the sea air gives just the right amount of moisture while the high winds which blow across the top of the house draw away the warm air from within and create the healthful currents needed to give vitality to the plants. Begonias cannot stand sour ground, imperfect drainage or stale air. They revel in the moist yet vital air of tropical forests. The begonia is a forest denison, does its best beneath the green shade of tall trees and Mr. Robinson knowing this, has created, in remarkable degree, the lush, warm moist atmosphere of a forest.

About ten thousand plants and a thick ground cover of moss—*Nertera Depressa*—do much to create and hold the right amount of moisture. He discovered that the begonia builds up its root system, and not down, that it makes its growth on top of old roots. So he puts the manure or fertilizers on top of the ground and never digs it in. He puts spagnum moss on top of the huge hanging baskets and the pots destined to be moved about, and the roots soon fill it, giving the plant perfect feeding and allowing them to breath. All watering is done by hand. The overhead system of watering has been tried, but he prefers to water by hand for in this way he has absolute control and can give each plant or section of the house just the attention it needs. He declares that plants feel something beyond mere temperature and that they do not do as well in a new lathhouse as in an old one. They seem to respond to what sentimentalists call "love", but which is in reality "understanding". Because he understands them, he gives them what they like and they respond—a treatment that people as well as plants find stimulating.

Mr. Robinson has over two hundred varieties of begonias in full bloom, many of which have been created by him. In 1917 he obtained a few tubers of Lloydii and from these he developed many splendid new colors and forms. He has about fifty varieties of Rex and many seedlings. When David Fairchild visited his lathhouse a few years ago, he encouraged him to raise new seedlings.

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He now has in superb bloom about one hundred varieties in color and size surpassing all description. All sorts of surprises reward him for his work, one especially promises great things. He had one plant from Ecuador, which puts forth a long spray of beautiful pink blossoms on a woody stem, almost like the trunk of a tree. The leaf is large, grey and silver. In some way this got crossed with a *Lloydii* and the result is a marvelous plant unlike anything ever seen before.

Beside the rare and perfect specimens of begonias which climb to the top of the house like vines or send down pendulous sprays which almost sweep the ground and which rival orchids in brilliancy of color, he has about seventy-five to one hundred varieties of ferns, about twelve varieties of maiden-hair ferns in hanging baskets, many specimens of *Impatiens*, *gloxinias*, *streptocarpus* from South Africa, which run the color scale from blue to purple, white, grey, pink and primrose, besides a notable collection of deciduous vines, which he encourages for they provide shade in the summer and permit entrance of sun during the winter. He says that the lathhouse in Point Loma has grown a greater variety of plants than can be found in any other one spot in the world, though of course it has its limitations. It cannot grow orchids, Lily of the Valley, nor peonies. Yet the fact that so many moisture-demanding plants can be made to grow in the semitropic, sunny and dry atmosphere of Southern California, because they are given the protection of a lathhouse, seems little short of miraculous. The lathhouse has given Californians an opportunity to enjoy a whole range of plants which until recently has been thought out of their power to grow. Mr. Robinson must be given credit for his work in lathhouse science. He has done the patient and expensive experimenting necessary to determine the scope, power and limitations of this picturesque form of house and has at all times given the public the benefit of his experiments.

One of the events of the year to the members of the San Diego Floral Association is the meeting held in his lathhouse. It is something to the credit of the three hundred or more people who walked along his moss-bordered paths and looked at the myriads of bright blooms filling the air with beauty, to note that not a stalk was broken or a bloom injured. The people appreciate the generous way in which he keeps open house and return his kindness by respecting the results of the arduous work required to bring it all to the high state of perfection it now has attained.

As the guests entered the garden centered by the lathhouse, they pass a large oval bed of iris which must be like a pool of water in the spring. They also enjoyed a rare collection of dahlias and of roses while the path to the lathhouse was bordered with cannas ten feet and more in height and by the native

wild flower, *Lobelia Cardinalis*, which he has cultivated until it is scarcely recognizable by those who only know it in its wild state.

[Readers of The Garden will be delighted to find Miss Roorbach a contributor to its pages, she is one of several who have written for our magazine for love of its aims and objects solely, while more pretentious Eastern publications are only too glad to pay well for her articles and delightful pen and ink sketches. So much as an Editor, as an individual I find no fault with her contribution except there is too much "Robinson" and I am in a position to gauge accurately his mead of praise and I would have pruned the article to reduce the Robinson equation to the proper proportion only my brumbe hand would surely have struck out like a sore thumb.]

THE ROSECROFT LATHHOUSE AND THE EARLY BIRD

I have been to see the Rosecroft Lathhouse and I found the owner between tears and swears and he asked me as a perfectly irresponsible party to tell you his troubles. Now I hate to be anybody's policeman, but the poor chap was working up a fever, and at his age they are always dangerous and uninteresting, so I told him "Go ahead, empty yourself and you'll feel better." He commenced to walk up and down among his floral pets and eased himself thus. Now look here earlybird, I don't want to be a grouch or a hog, but don't you think I might have a little time in this lathhouse while it is at its best with my particular friends? Well I thought you would think so, and I had an idea I was being pretty generous when I set aside two days a week for the public to wander through and call *Begonias cinerarias* and *fuchsias* and everything else, and ask how they got that way, but I can't control them at all. They can't or won't read my signs or at least they pay no attention to them. In the spring in spite of all my efforts and notices in the papers that I had not a damned thing worth looking at, they came and brought strangers whom they told how I was letting the place run down. Then I spent three dollars and a half for signs which I plastered all over and had a bit of relief. Now the thing is pretty good again I say, come on Wednesday and Sunday between ten and four and confine your inspection to the lathhouse, I don't want you wandering all over the ten acres. Do they do it? Not on your tintype, they come any old day any old time and say they have a friend, from England mostly, as they know that is likely to catch me and having passed my defense wander all over me, look in my windows, laugh at my half-dressed chickens, and drive me upstairs cussing helplessly. I am amazed at the numbers of

strangers around now that must see the lathhouse, and on days that are not Wednesday or Sunday, and between ten and four. Frankly, I resign myself to being bedroom ridden in the open hours, because no human could answer the questions the lathhouse hears and keep both sane and polite, but that does not help, I am called up on the phone the next day when additional questions have been evolved and I am driven to keep murmuring "Thank You" into the receiver, but I don't know what I mean, and I am sure no one else does. The hard part of all this is that I have a kind of feeling most of these folks think they are paying me compliments, and that there is no greater compliment than to be properly and thoroughly inquisitive, and I do want every one truly interested in lathhouses and begonias and such to feel perfectly free to see my collection on the days appointed. "What would you do?"

Well, I laughed enough for enjoyment, but not enough to peeve the old chap and said, Well, I always say "Well" even when I know something is the matter, you have made out a pretty good case, but I think you have eaten something indigestible or are coming down with a cold, you don't seem to understand that most folks in your position would be tickled to death to have all the visitors you do and get their names in a book and collect their visiting cards in a bushel basket, you don't know when you are popular, you might publish a list of visitors weekly in the Society column of the Sunday papers and excite a world of envy. But there, old chap, I see you don't feel like being kidded, I will see what I can do for you, and so I am just wrting this little story in the hope that the poor old man may by its means get visitors to his lathhouse to visit the lathhouse in open hours and then go home quietly for that seems to be what he wants.

AUG. VEGETABLE GARDEN

Continued from page 5

two or three feet deep, and plant seed from 4 to 6 inches, covering one inch and gradually filling in as plants grow. This will give a deep rooting system thereby protecting the roots and giving a more vigorous growth of vine.

September being one of the most trying months in the year for growing and especially tender plants, be sure not to neglect cultivation and irrigation, both badly needed, to preserve crispness and quality in your vegetables.

All hardy vegetable seeds can still be planted, including sweet corn, beans, lettuce, radish, beets, etc.

The Fall Flower Show will be held September 30th and October 1st. Get ready to exhibit now.

BLUE GRASS, POA PRATENSIS

Continued from page 7

the days and nights are warm and the humidity of the atmosphere never less than 65%. Reader of these lines, resident of a country with a climate which has a variation of 30 to 40 degrees of temperature during the twentyfour hours, and a humidity as low as ten per cent at times, do you get the idea of what you have to contend with climatic ally to make a first-class lawn?

Our methods of lawn treatment on the Pacific Coast are all wrong, fundamentally wrong, and until we change methods we shall have Bermuda grass, Chickweed (*Cerastium vulgatum*), Dandelion, Plantain and other undesiable plants infesting these same laws. Well, you say, "what are we to do?" The answer is simple. Sharpen the lawn mower along about the first of May and stow it away, well oiled, to prevent rusting, until along about the first of September, letting the grass grow the entire summer, then when the nights begin to get cool, put a sharp scythe in the hands of a husky, and mow it, and use the cutting for a mulch about other plants of the garden. To be sure the lawn so treated must have some water during the long dry summer and the grass will become two feet in length, smothering out all other vegetation, Bermuda grass not excepted. The fellow who must have a lawn, shaved as slick and clean as his face, will say: "What would a lawn look like during the summer under such treatment?" My reply is: a hundred per cent better than 90 per cent of lawns do now by the present method practiced all over this Southland. An impracticable dreamer I hear you say. Nothing of the kind. This speech is written from an experience on my own place during several years experimenting. I fully understand that any fellow who dares to brake away from established customs and creeds, is considered a Pagan, a Phillistine, a Revolutionist, but to be so thought of, will not disturb me, even a little bit.

Cupid Sweet Peas

This a very dwarf variety of this extensively cultivated, and highly desirable class of annuals. When up the coast last May, it was my privilege to look upon two beds of Cupids, each 50 feet wide, and 800 feet long, on the seed farm of the L. D. Waller Seed Co. If there is anything more beautiful, gorgeously beautiful than those were then I should like to see it. To be sure a Cupid Sweet Pea is of little account for cutting, because the stems are so short, but for spectacular effect they are unsurpassed by any other annual with which I am acquainted.

Sow a bed of them the coming season and be convinced that there are some things yet to be learned in the art of gardening in Southern California.

PETER D. BARNHART.

FETERUS CUCULLATUS NELSONI

The above heading, while it looks rather unfamiliar to most of us, perhaps, yet it is only the scientific name applied to a beautiful little bird—the Arizona Hooded Oriole.

A pair of these most interesting little visitors were first seen in the vicinity of our home about the 15th of April. Having never seen the oriole outside the limits of Balboa Park I was much interested in their presence near us. It is only the bright plumage of the male bird that is apt to attract the eye of the casual observer.

Mrs. Wheelock in her "Birds of California" thus describes him: General plumage saffron-yellow; black patch on throat, extending in front and under the eyes; a band across the fore part of back; tail and wings black, the latter with two white bars and white edgings; tail tipped with white.

Female: Upper parts olive green, slightly tinged with grey on back; wings olive brown, with two white bands; under parts plain dull yellow.

A neat, but not gaudy, little lady. No flapper, she's just a modest, industrious little home builder, yet with enough self-assertiveness to keep the domestic affairs on a fairly even keel.

We were more than delighted to discover that the orioles were building their nest in an Abyssinian banana that grew quite near the front window. On April 18th the merest suggestion of a nest was observed—a few threads of palm fibers were loosely attached to the under side of a leaf, about ten feet from the ground. It is at this stage of the story that the female claims our greatest interest and closest attention, for it is she who is the master-builder in the present enterprise. She cannot build without straw—of a kind—but she can and does build without material aid from her liege lord. I will retract a little and say that if you consider his accompanying her to and from the base of supplies, or getting into the nest on rare occasions (only to be chased out on her arrival) and uttering his loud strident "scraacks" as if scolding his mate for not doing the work properly, then, indeed, he was and helpmeet—the poor little dearie, perhaps she accepted, such attentions as moral aid, Mrs. Wheelock says that the hooded oriole assists his mate in gathering material for the nest. I am quite sure our own Mr. Oriole did not "lend a hand" in the work. He may have been a particularly lazy sort of fellow in this respect. Up to this time he was not what would be called a model husband, albeit a very modern one.

The nest was built wholly of palm fibers and lined scantily with a downy material and showed much system and ingenuity in its construction, especially in its attachment to the leaf on either side of the mid-rib. On the twenty-eighth of the month curiosity led me

to investigate when I found one egg in the nest (ultimately there were five).

In due time the stork deposited five little birdlings to gladden all our hearts. And now, O boy! hence forth Mr. Feterus was "Johnny on the spot",

In his untiring efforts in providing for his little ones he revealed his true place in the economy of family life. So far as I could learn through rather unfavorable circumstances due to the location of the nest and the shyness of the parent birds, the young were fed by regurgitation for the first few days after which they were fed on worms, insects, grubs, etc.

The oriole is rather shy and does not take kindly to your presence. He never loses the instinct of caution—safety first is his motto, and treats your presence as an intrusion, and exhibits quite a pugnacious spirit towards other birds and did not hesitate to escort an intruding mocking bird to other scenes.

If any one was in the front yard, bent on watching him, he would never go into the nest, but would hop about over the tree in a fretful, nervous way, uttering his harsh, scolding note, plainly evidencing his disapproval, and if you tarried too long in an effort to out-wit him he would proceed to swallow his worm, flying away for another morsel, and perhaps to give you time to consider the error of your ways. In two weeks the nestlings took flight and were never seen thereafter.

A few weeks later the old birds returned and reared another brood, building a new nest on a leaf adjoining the old one. As I was not at home at the time I did not get to observe their doings.

The following spring the orioles returned to the banana and began the construction of another nest, locating it between two leaves, one just above the other with but a few inches space between them. After noting their intentions I was foolish enough to tie the two outer ends of the leaves together and to the house, they were foolish enough to anchor their nest to both top and bottom leaves. As a result of our mistakes the wind kept agitating, tearing and distorting it to such an extent that the nest was abandoned by the birds, they to find more favorable conditions, we thereby losing our most interesting little neighbors.

Within the environs of San Diego there is a sacred precinct through which runs a palm-bordered driveway where one may find numbers of nests of the hooded oriole. On one occasion 29 nests were discovered. Some were new, others evidently of other years, all, as far as could be seen, without the aid of glasses, were built of palm fibers. I have found the orioles nest in the Exposition grounds in our park, which is easy of access for those who care to do personal exploring.

F. C. ARTER.

ORIGIN OF PLANT PARASITES

(Transmitted by Bronte A. Reynolds,
Sacramento, California.)

Many of our plant diseases are often due to fungus parasites of our native wild plants but more often our most destructive diseases are fungus parasites of plants related to our cultivated crops in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. Such a fungus in its native home has been so long accustomed to living on its host that both have become accustomed to the relationship and the damage is small. In other words, the host has through long association with its parasite become resistant to attack and thus can continue to live and thrive without suffering much injury. But when such a parasite is introduced into a new country where it can attack other varieties or species closely related to its original host plant, it can bring about tremendous damage, for the new host is unable to resist and falls readily under the attack.

"Examples of disease which have been considered very harmless in their home land but which have become quite destructive when introduced to new hosts in some other other country are;

"The grape mildew which is a natural but rather harmless parasite of the American wild grape, and was unknown in Europe until about forty years ago when it was carried across the ocean from this country and almost destroyed the European vineyards until spraying was started.

"The chestnut blight came from China or Japan and is harmless on the chestnut trees in those countries but in the United States it has practically destroyed the Eastern stand of chestnut.

"The white pine blister rust is also a foreign parasite, having been brought here from Europe about fifteen years ago. Our own potato wart came from Europe in shipments of potatoes in 1921. The potato wart alone cost Pennsylvania about \$25,000 a year to prevent its spread.

"Countless other diseases that are of small account in their native lands are waiting a chance to get into our country and there is no doubt that many of them would prove highly destructive to our crop plants."—(McCubbin, Pa., Dept. Agr.)

BALBOA PARK NOTES

Continued from page 5

Nymphaea Gladstoniana—White.
Nymphaea Albida—White.
Nymphaea Odorata—White.
Nymphaea Conqueror—Violet Rose.
Nymphaea Gloriosa—Carmen Rose.
Nymphaea Escarboucle—Crimson Carmine.
Nymphaea Lucida—Vermilion.
Nymphaea Chromatella—Yellow.
Nymphaea Pygmaea Helvola—Yellow.

Nymphaea Robinsoni—Orange Red.
Nymphaea Wm. Falconer—Garnet.
Nymphaea—Indiana—Orange Red.
Nymphaea Sonitiosa—Reddish Pink.
Nymphaea Comanche—Light Orange Red.
Nymphaea Zambibarensis—Blue.
Nymphaea Zanibarensis—Blue.
Nymphaea Laydeken Lilacea—Lilac.

Other interesting features in the park at present are the Flowering Eucalyptus Ficiolia. These trees are supposed to produce red flowers. Probably the original trees, in Australia, their native habitat, did produce red flowers. At present there is no way to guarantee red flowers, owing to the hybridization of the flowers by the bees, and though seed may be saved from a tree producing red flowers, the trees grown from the seed may produce a wide diversity of colors—white, yellow, pink, purple, crimson, scarlet and red. This should not deter the purchasing of this variety for planting, however the purchaser must not expect them to be red, or any other color, unless they are in bloom when purchased. The trees in bloom in the park have all the colors enumerated, among them some very fine red, crimson, scarlet and orange red shades. The finest trees now in flower are at the corner of Sixth and Juniper streets, and in the Golden Hill division, near the Municipal Golf Links.

Dahlias are now commencing to bloom in profusion, and those planted south of the Organ Pavilion will soon be at their best. A fine view of this garden may be had from the Peristyle of the Organ Pavilion.

There are two other large plantings of dahlias in the park, one at the brow of the hill on West Boulevard near Date street, and the other, a planting of all seedlings, on Sixth street, between Ivy and Juniper.

The dahlias grown in the park are nearly all raised from seed saved in the park, therefore very few of the standard varieties will be noticed among them. We have raised some very fine seedlings. Among them are three varieties, one named Mrs. Aubrey Davidson, a semi-double, peony flowered variety, color orange and crimson, and is the most admired of all the collection. A buff decorative variety is very fine, and this is the third year from seed, and it has been named City of San Diego. Another has been named Beauty. It is a very fine deep rose pink, of the decorative type. We have several other very fine ones, which will be named and added to our permanent collection.

Seedling dahlias are easy to grow. Sow the seed in March or April in seed flats. When large enough, they may be transplanted to pots and grown on until May and then planted in the open ground where they are to bloom, or may be transplanted from the seed bed direct. They are so easy to raise that it is not necessary to give special instructions.

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